

# Rhode Island Litter Task Force

## Enforcement Survey

### Members

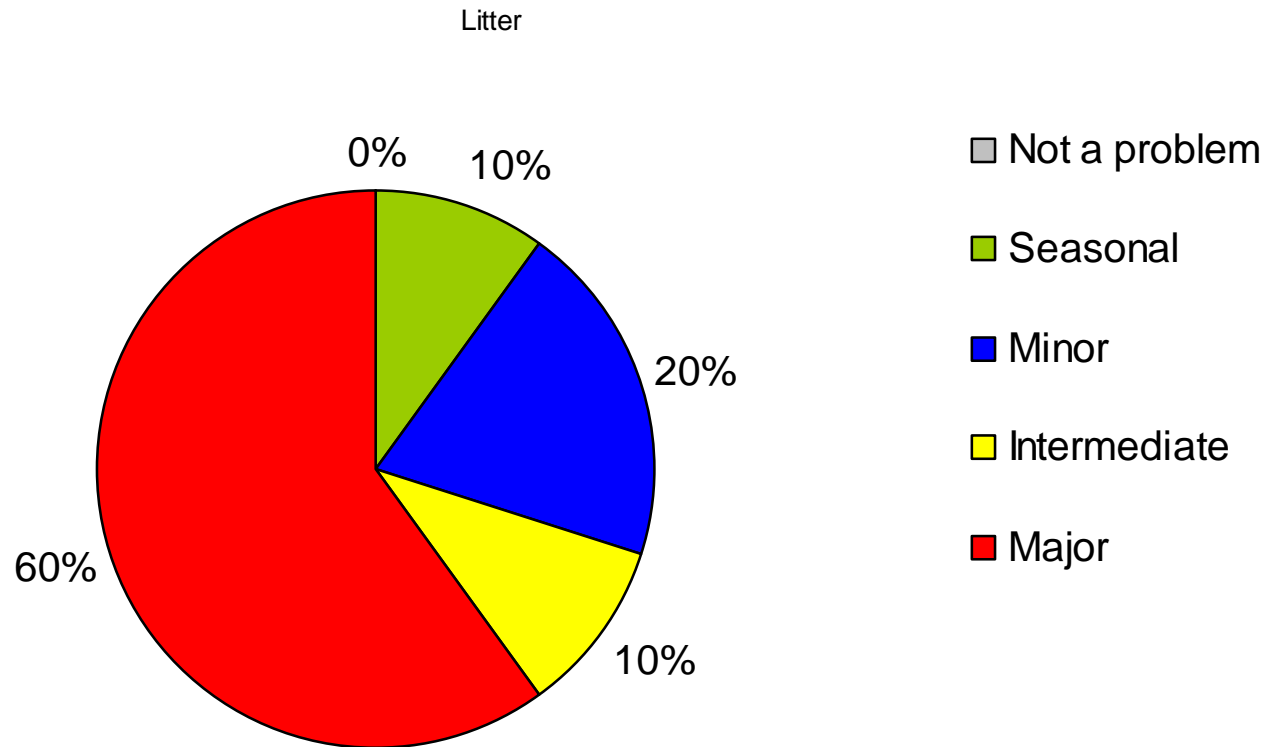
Audubon Society of RI • Buckeye Brook Watershed Assn. • Clean Water Action • RI Assn. of Conservation Commissions • RI Dept. of Environmental Management • RI Food Dealers Assn. • Sierra Club of RI • Woonasquatucket River Watershed Assn.

# Rhode Island Litter Task Force

- The Enforcement Survey was sent to each of the 39 Rhode Island cities and towns
- 20 people responded from 11 communities
- Completed surveys came from 3 Departments of Public Works, a Conservation Commission Officer, 2 CEOs, 3 Police Chiefs and 2 Lieutenants, 2 Parks / Recreation Staff, a Zoning Official, a Building Official, an Engineer, a Town Planner and Councilor, The Warren Litter Committee and the DEM Fish and Wildlife Deputy Chief
- **The following is a summation of their responses**

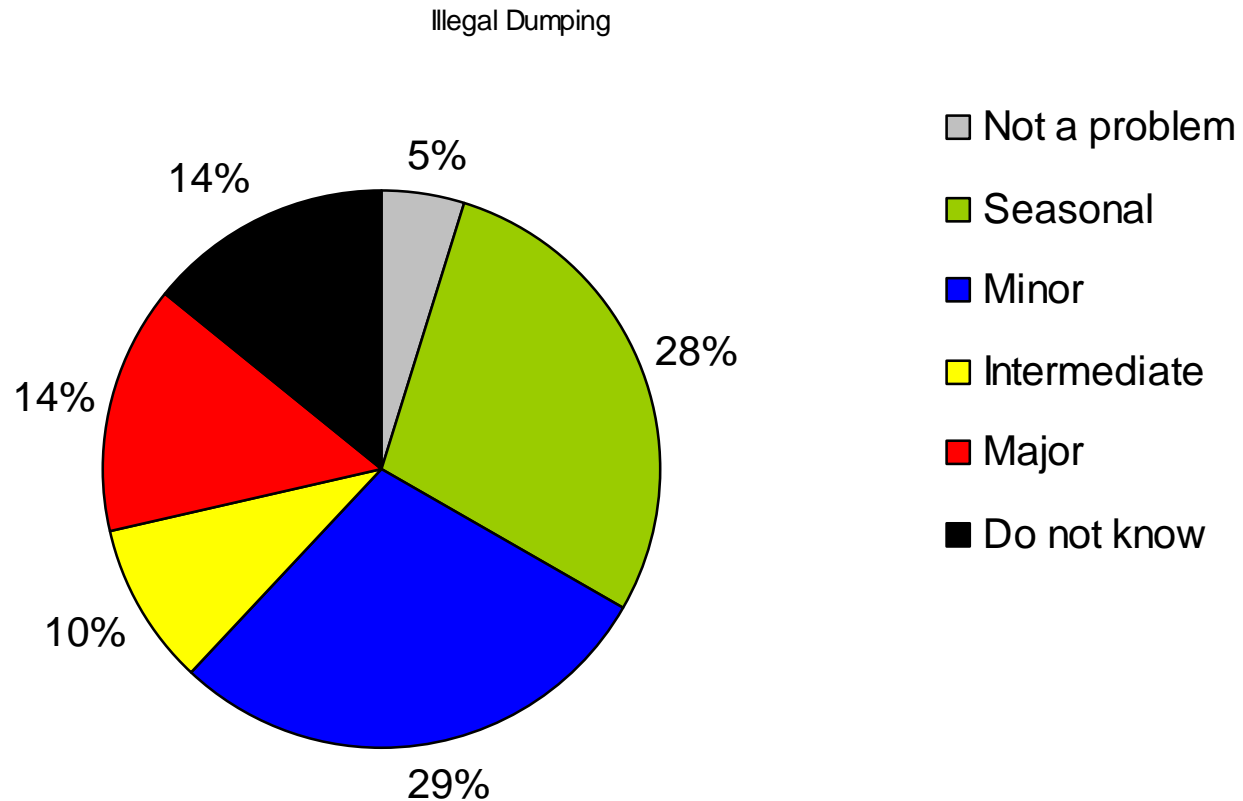
# Rhode Island Litter Task Force

**How would you describe littering in your community?**



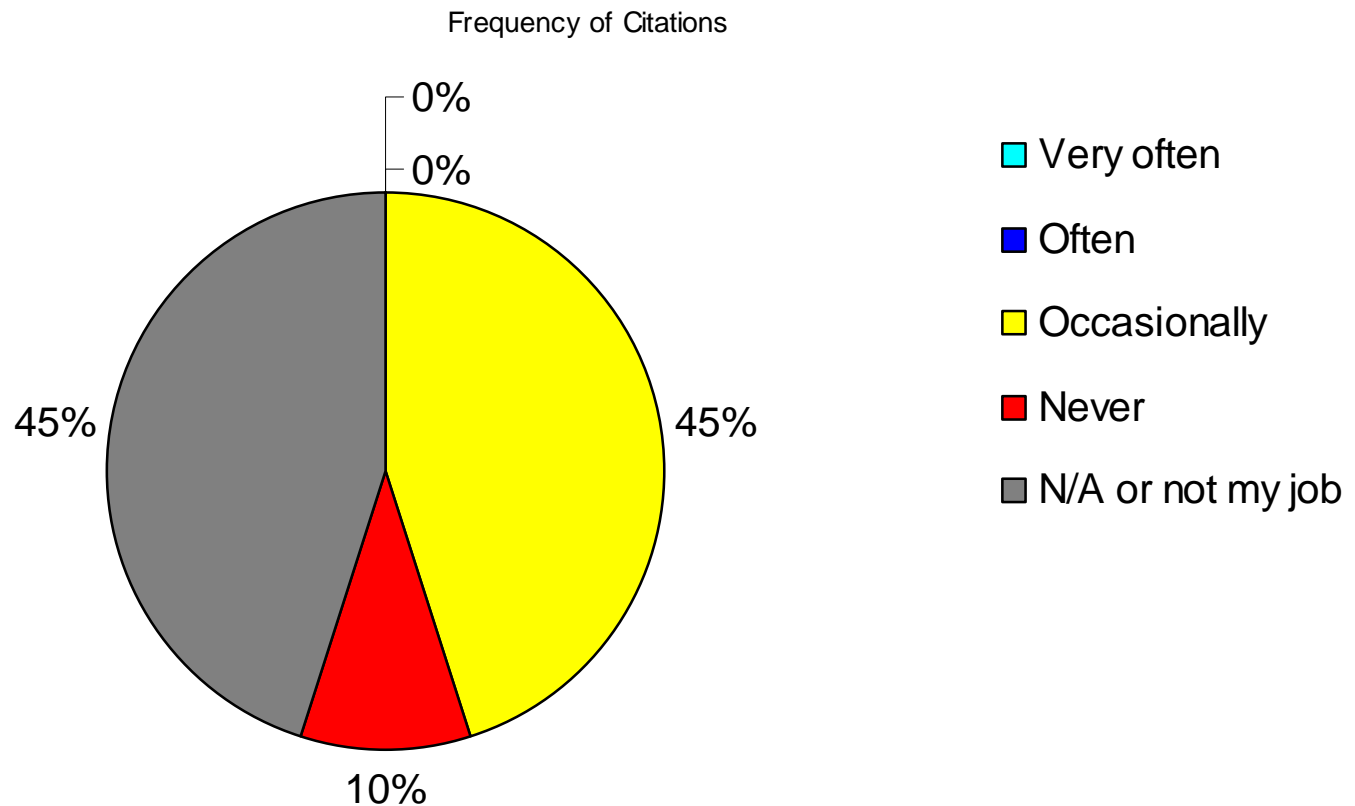
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**How would you describe illegal dumping in your community?**



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**How often do you cite people for littering / illegal dumping?**



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## **Mechanisms used to enforce anti-litter requirements:**

- RI General Laws 37-15-7 and 2-15-7
- Zoning laws
- Tickets / fines
- Community service
- Some said there were none

## **Range of penalty**

- Per RIGL
- \$200
- Community service / clean-ups
- Up to \$500
- \$100 a day / up to \$100
- There is no penalty

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## **What mechanisms do you use to *combat* illegal dumping?**

- Zoning laws
- Community service
- Court summons
- RITT for under 3 cubic yards / Superior Court for over 3 cubic yards
- Tickets / fines
- Respond to complaints

## **Range of penalty**

- \$500 - \$5,000 per day and up to 5 years
- Up to \$500
- Jail time up to 30 days
- Community service / clean-ups
- Up to \$100
- Not specified

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**How much money have you collected in fines from  
littering / illegal dumping in the past 2 years?**

**2001 \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**2002 \$\_\_\_\_\_**

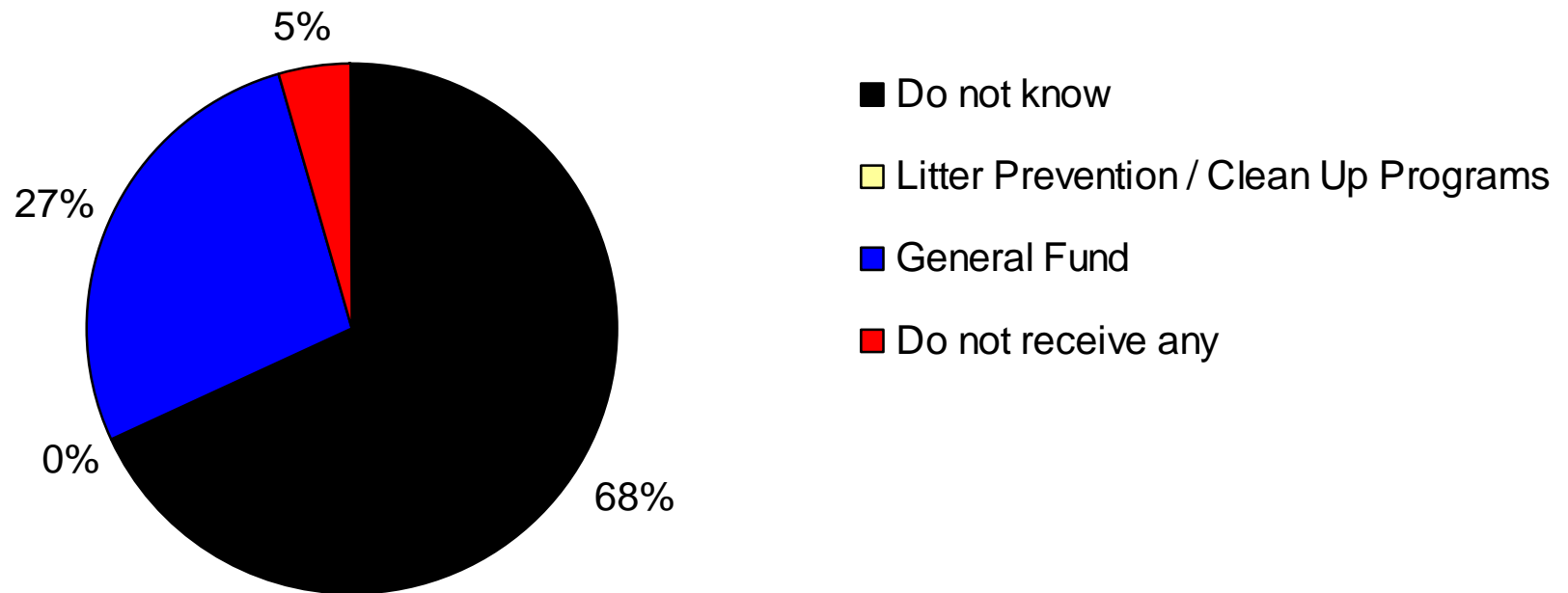
**No one knows!**



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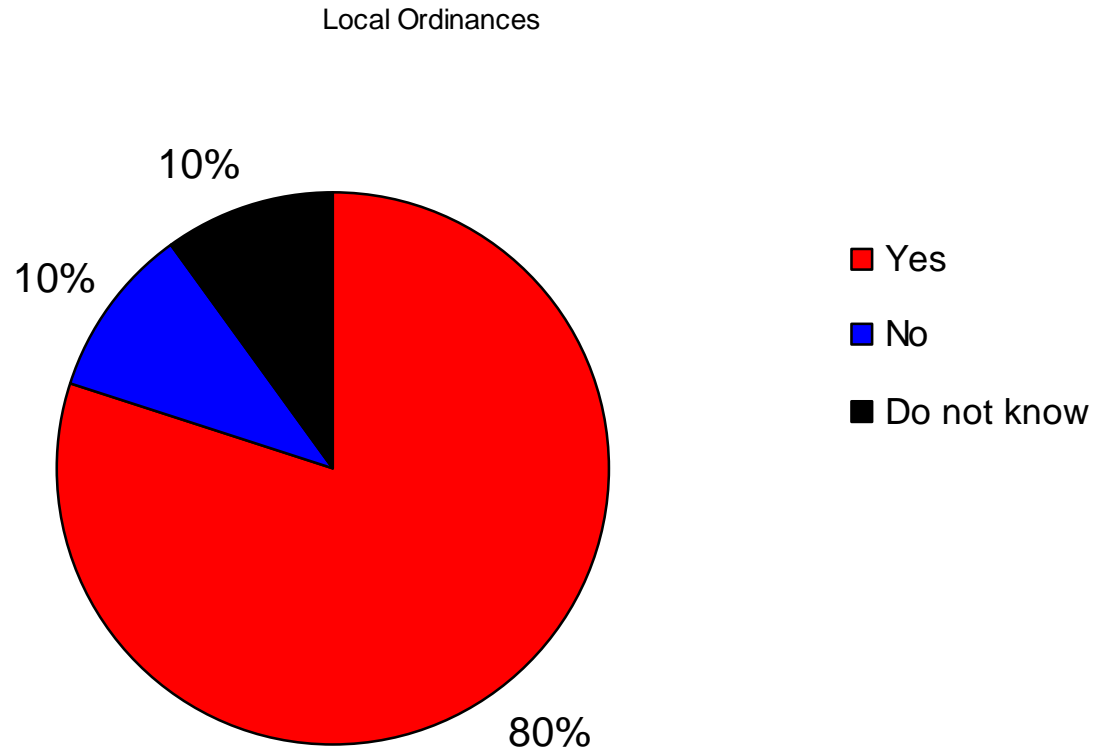
**What is the money from littering / illegal dumping used for?**

Application of Fines



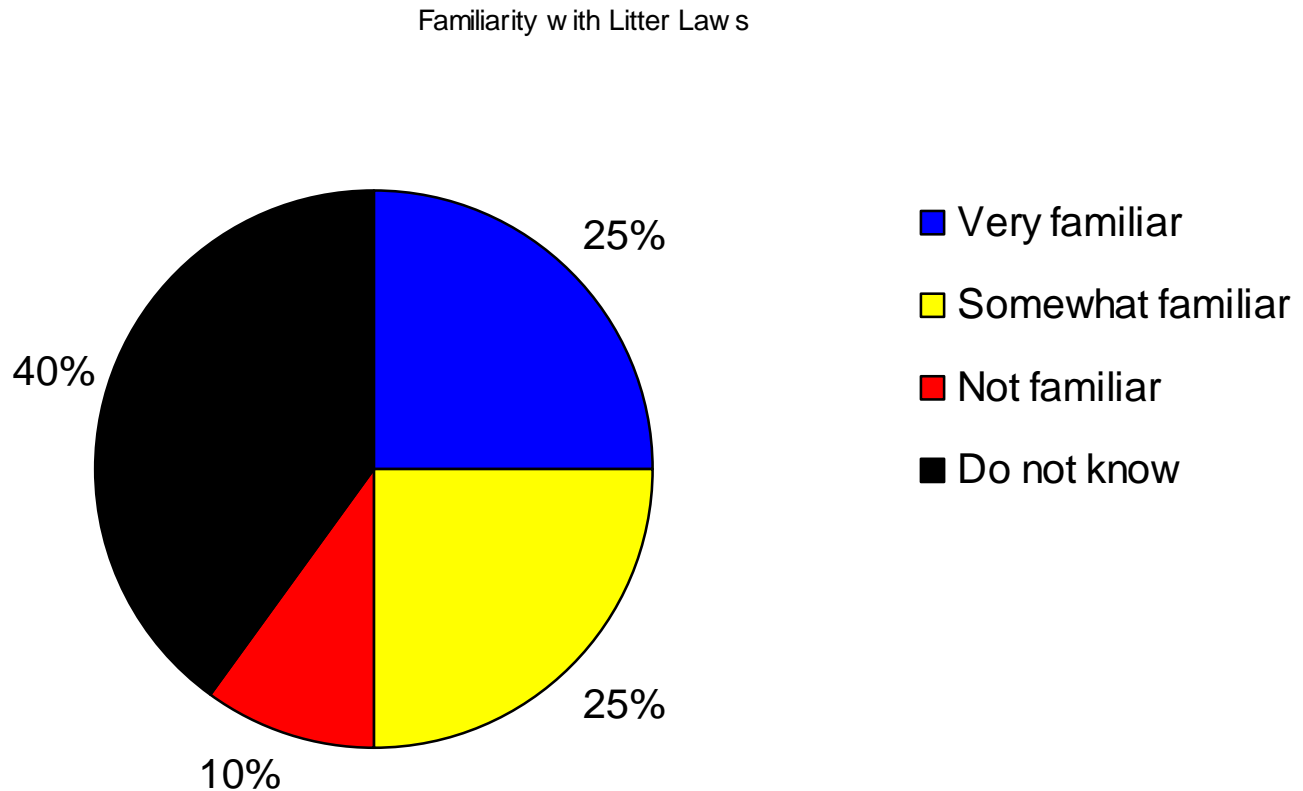
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**Do you have local ordinances that prohibit littering and illegal dumping?**



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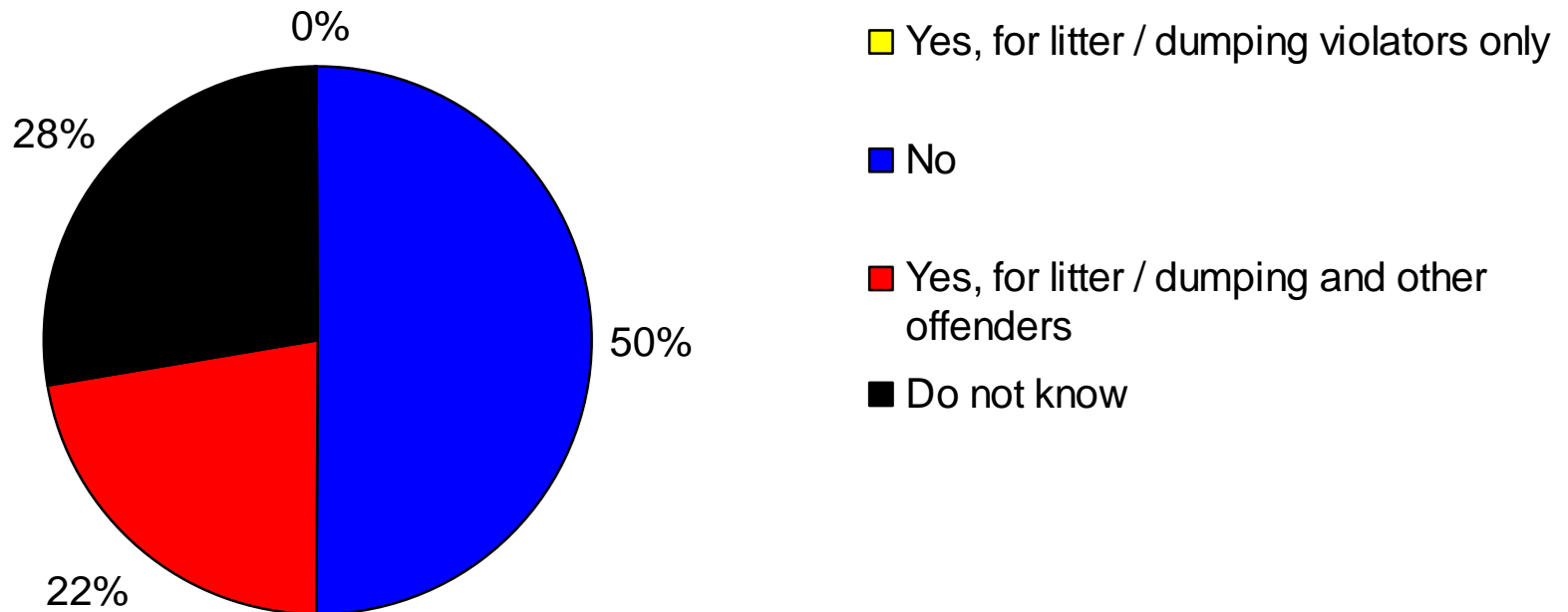
**How familiar do you feel your officers are with state litter laws?**



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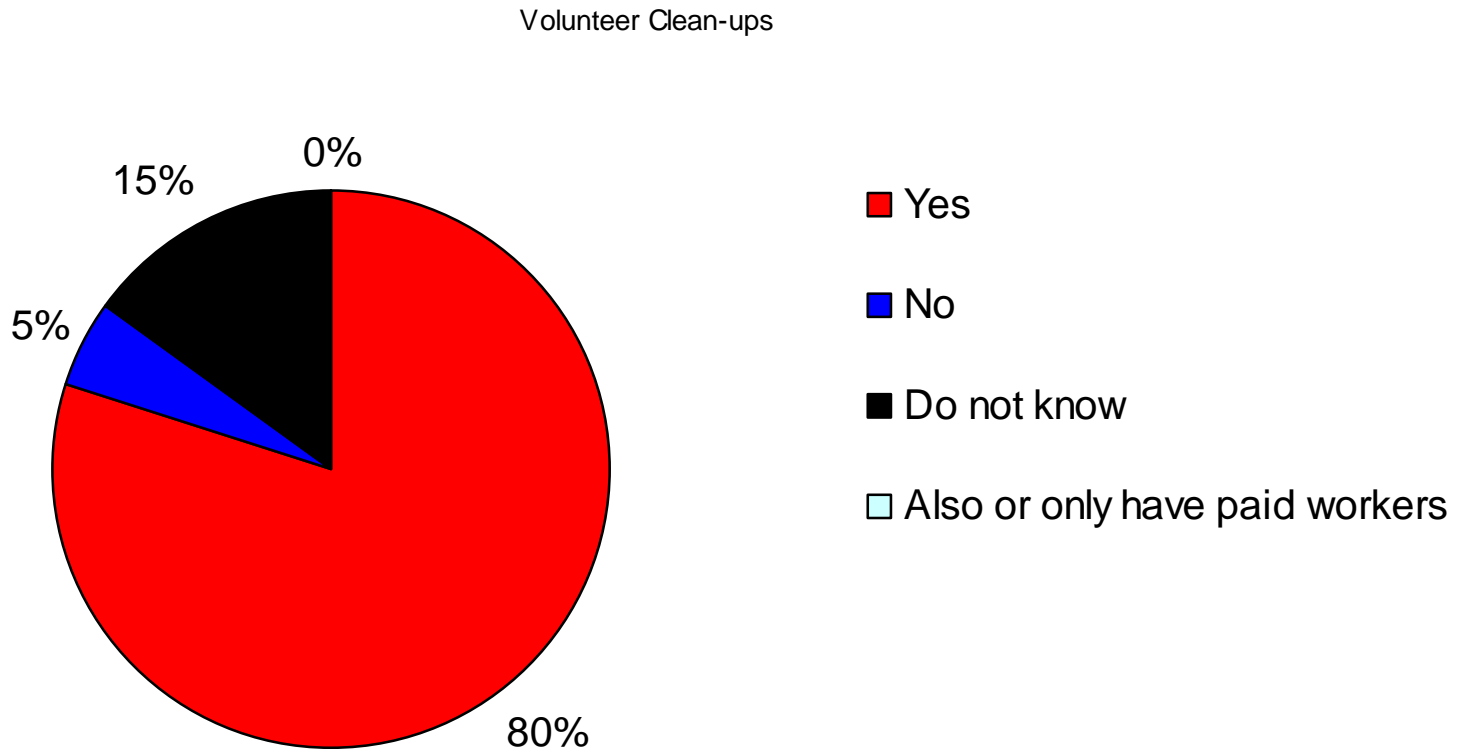
**Does your city / town have a program where offenders clean up litter as part of a community service sentence?**

Offender Clean-ups



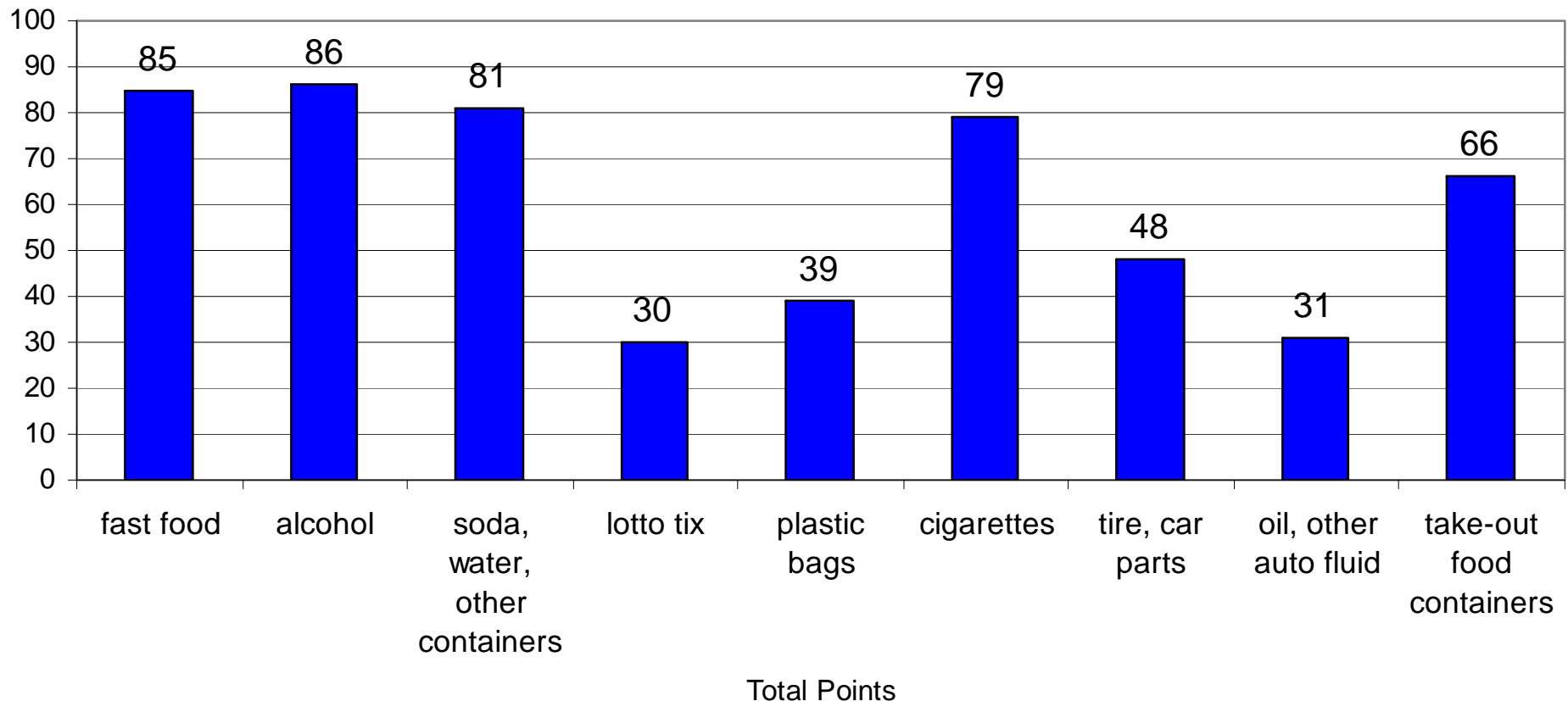
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**Does your community have volunteer groups, either public or private, that conduct litter clean-ups?**



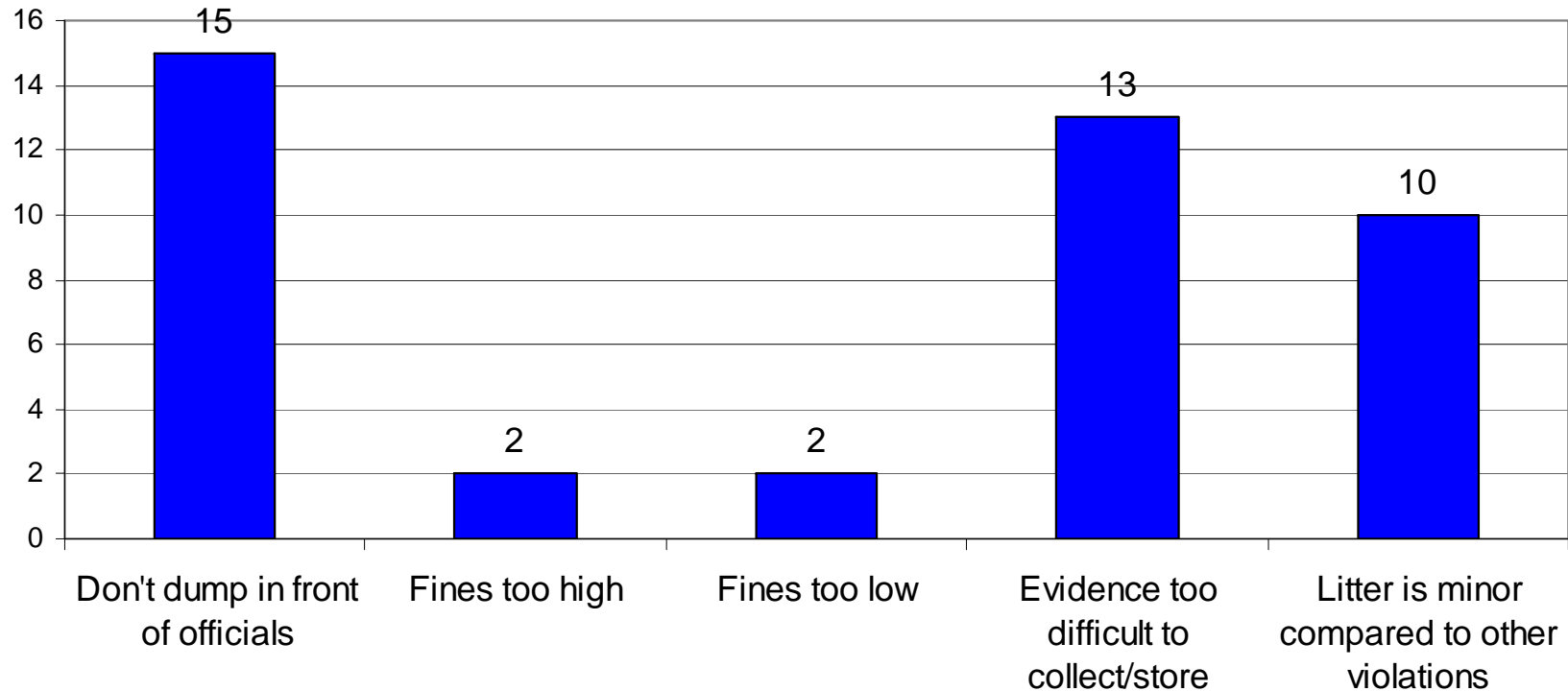
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**Rate sources of litter in your municipality using the following rating scale: 0 = cannot rate (n/a) 1 = not a problem 2 = minor 3 = occasional 4 = seasonal 5 = major**



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**What do you believe are the biggest barriers in enforcing state and local litter laws?**



**Other responses:** Not enough manpower / money, people's habits are hard to break, difficult to catch people littering in the woods, etc., zoning amendments may be necessary

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**In what ways do you think the enforcement process can be improved?**

- Occasional training sessions for police officers
- Empower other persons beside police to issue citations
- Charge businesses based on the litter they generate
- Education / Advertising / Public awareness
- Litter specific patrols / Night patrols
- More realistic / lower fines could allow for more citations
- Encourage the public to report violators



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**How do you think we can motivate people to not litter the streets?**

- Litter must be picked up immediately
- Education / Advertising / Public outreach (especially in schools)
- More offender clean-ups
- Get businesses involved
- More enforcement / Fines
- Encourage recycling / Monetary returns on containers

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## **Additional Comments:**

“Litter pick up seems to get overlooked at every level of government. Oscar Program was a very effective tool that we have lost.”

“Dunkin Donuts should have a clean street campaign. Much litter on the side of the road is theirs. RI lottery should be held accountable.”

“Need to expand the plastic recycling, i.e. #3 and up. Provide more trash receptacles at area businesses.”

“The Tiverton Conservation Commission has [litter] as a priority on its current agenda.”